

Word was not long in reaching Havana that the death of Colonel Ruiz had been reached and the severely reprobated the death of Colonel Ruiz. More remarkable was the news which came by way of Madrid. This was that Minister de Lome informed the ministry that "in consequence of the killing of Ruiz" the administration had decided to send the squadron from the Gulf of Mexico to the Mediterranean. The degree to which President McKinley's administration condones its intentions is dead. But the Havana public, knowing the source of the information, puts its thumb to its nose. The death of Colonel Ruiz is not ending the insurrection; the disposition to be made of the Atlantic squadron will not end it. Writing in the midst of events it is necessary to tell what is happening regardless of impressions elsewhere of what it is thought should happen or what is likely to happen.

**Official Reports.**  
While the authorities are making the decrees of government so far as the civil functions of government are concerned, they must be followed on the parallel line of military operations. After pacification will come the application of the system to all the provinces. In conflicting accounts it is sometimes difficult to determine the real conditions, but when Cuba is at peace the existence of peace will make itself known. The rate of progress may be gained from the official reports. I am going to follow those reports as a guide. A summary of the work is made up every ten days. The latest one is the following:

Insurgents killed..... 302  
Insurgents taken prisoner..... 17  
Presented with arms..... 317  
Presented without arms..... 317  
Spanish losses.....  
Killed..... 236  
Wounded..... 226

It will be noted that no record is made of the insurgents wounded because the number is not known, yet where so many are killed there must be some wounded who subsequently die, and who are not recorded to be made to the mortality among the insurgents. In Weyler's time the proportion of losses was one Spanish soldier for every ten insurgents who were killed, and 250 was the favorite ten days' summary of insurgent losses. The ratio has fallen a little and now it takes 8-17 insurgents for every Spanish soldier who falls. The disproportion between the number of the troops killed and the number wounded is not germane to the main question, which is the amount of the insurgent losses. With 302 killed, 17 taken prisoners, and 317 surrendering with arms in hand, the total is 636. If the insurgents are actually suffering losses at this rate a definite period will be fixed for ending the war, for their little army cannot stand a loss from its ranks of 1,000 a month. These official accounts may be followed carefully in the future. They will demonstrate to Spain, by her own showing, that she have annihilated the insurrection by killing and capturing, and causing the surrender of all its men. When that is demonstrated by the official figures no need will exist for keeping an army in Cuba. The official figures are done by the general staff, or "estados mayores." Its statistics are the basis of the reports regularly made to Madrid and Washington about the "approaching end" of the war.

**CHARLES M. PEPPER.**  
**TO REMOVE THE TRACKS**  
The Eckington Railway Company to Be Prosecuted.  
District Attorney Davis Instructed to Take Action to Compel the Taking Up of Unused Rails.  
The Department of Justice has instructed District Attorney Davis to bring suit against the Eckington and Soldiers' Home railroad to compel the company to remove the unused tracks. The company has been ordered to remove the unused tracks between 5th and 7th streets and to restore the street to its former condition. Some time ago complaint was filed with the Secretary of the Interior by business men and residents on New York avenue between 5th and 7th streets that the unused tracks and cobble stones between and on the edges of the tracks were obstructing travel. Messrs. Barker and Merrill were the leaders in the appeal to the Secretary of the Interior.  
The Secretary of the Interior referred the complaint, which was accompanied by affidavits to the Attorney General, who in turn instructed the district attorney to bring suit. Mr. Davis has also been requested to push the action. The Department of Justice, in years gone by, had trouble with the railroad company, and found nothing in the treatment of the road for the department that would warrant bringing now but quick, speedy and decisive action.  
It is stated at the Department of Justice that there is no question as to the right of the United States to compel the company to remove the unused tracks. The law is as to the form of the proceeding. District Attorney Davis and the Department are considering this under consideration, and something will be done at once.

**SUSTAINED THE APPEAL.**  
Assistant Secretary Davis Favorably Received the Appeal.  
Among the decisions rendered by the appeal cases today by Webster Davis, assistant secretary of the interior, was one in the claim of Elizabeth Jane, widow of Harry Ward, late of Company D, 102d U. S. Infantry, which is of special interest. The action of the commissioner of pensions was reversed. The claim is for pension under provisions of section 3 of the act of June 27, 1904.  
The claimant is an ignorant colored woman, who signs by mark, but is described by the witnesses as a "poor, innocent, hard-working woman." The reports of the two special examiners are unequivocally in her favor.  
The only question involved was the marriage of the claimant to the soldier. There is no record evidence of marriage, and it is claimed that the marriage certificate is lost.  
In his decision Assistant Secretary Davis says: "The evidence is sufficient to settle, beyond a doubt, the fact that claimant was the widow of the soldier. Soldier was not a pensioner, nor had he ever applied for a pension, and at date of the alleged marriage there was no reason to believe that claimant would ever be entitled to a pension on account of her husband's service. Claimant's account of her separation from soldier is corroborated by her stepson, who is evidently not biased in claimant's favor."  
The case is free from any evidence of collusion on the part of claimant or her witnesses, and the testimony leads me to the conclusion that the claimant is entitled to soldier as alleged, notwithstanding the absence of record evidence of the marriage, and of the opinion that the testimony in the case would establish a valid marriage in the state of Michigan. The action appealed from is reversed."

**Speaker Rec'd the Guest of Honor.**  
Spencer Reed will be the guest of honor at the banquet and ceremonies of the board of directors of the city trust of the city of Philadelphia next Monday evening, on the occasion of the semi-centennial anniversary of the opening of Girard College.

**LATE NEWS BY WIRE**

**Warrants Out for Arrest of Broker H. O. Goldsmith.**  
**HE ROBBED CLIENTS OF THOUSANDS**  
**Pursued Same Methods of Notorious E. S. Dean Company.**

**HIS WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN**  
NEW YORK, December 29.—A warrant is out for the arrest of Henry Oliver Goldsmith, one of the best-known men of Wall street. The specific charge against him is grand larceny in the first degree for appropriating a check for \$3,000, the property of Oscar E. A. Wiessner of Brooklyn.  
The officials of the district attorney's office say that Goldsmith has managed to get away with something like half a million dollars by operations similar to those which brought the E. S. Dean Company before the public.  
Goldsmith was indicted by the grand jury on Tuesday last. Detectives have followed clues all over New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Boston and other places, but so far Goldsmith has eluded them.  
Goldsmith and a man named Webster operated under the firm name of Hoyt & Co. George Hazelwood and William A. Mitchell, who were their brokers, were arrested three weeks ago for their part in the operations. The charges against them have not been tried. They were dropped from membership in the stock exchange. It is said that they were upon their evidence that the grand jury found that the district attorney Goldsmith, and in the opinion of the district attorney, he is one of the shrewdest men that ever engaged in Wall street speculation, after the manner of Dean & Co. They say his victims are numbered by the thousands.

**WRECK ON WABASH RAILROAD.**  
**Several Passengers Shaken Up in a Rear-End Collision.**  
CHICAGO, December 29.—In a rear-end collision on the Wabash railroad last evening at Pellet's Springs, nineteen miles south-west of Chicago, three passengers were injured, among them being the late Senator John Humphrey. The "Cannon Ball" express, bound for Chicago, ran into the last coach of a suburban train from Chicago which had switched at Palos to allow the express to pass. The suburban train was thrown into the ditch at the side of the track. There were fifteen persons in the car at the time, most of whom were scratched and bruised.

**HIS TREASURE IN A TIN PAN.**  
**Thieves Broke in and Stole—Now Mr. Walters is Crazy.**  
NILES, Mich., December 29.—Lawrence Walters, an aged farmer residing three miles north of Waukegan, Cass county, had no faith in banks, and instead placed his savings, consisting of about \$3,500 in greenbacks, \$4,000 in government bonds, notes, mortgages and other valuable papers, in a tin pan. This he buried beneath the floor in his house some months ago, and he has been in the habit of visiting the hiding place every day to see if his fortune was safe.  
This morning when he made the customary visit, he found that robbers had been there, for his fortune had disappeared. The old man is almost crazed over his loss.

**MINERS WANT MORE PAY.**  
**Trouble Expected in Northern Colorado Coal Fields.**  
DENVER, Col., December 29.—Trouble is brewing in the northern coal fields. The operators have received notice from the miners that unless their wages are increased before January 10 they will close down every coal mine in Lafayette, Louisville, Marshall, Erie and the smaller camps. The operators say that the schedule demanded is an advance of from 10 to 40 cents per ton. The present scale runs from 50 cents per ton for pithead coal to 70 and 90 cents per ton for pithead coal. According to the way the operators figure the scale demanded would be 55 to 60 cents after machines and 85 cents to \$1 for pithead coal.  
The operators say that the present wages, together with the other expenses of production, leaves them a very small margin, and that the miners are insisting on a higher scale the operators will be forced to close down the mines.  
There are 1,500 men in the territory who will be thrown out of work in the event of a strike.

**VICTIM OF RACE PREJUDICE.**  
**Simon Wolf Tells Why Commodore Levy Was Dismissed.**  
NEW YORK, December 29.—The sixth annual meeting of the American Jewish Historical Society convened in this city today. Former Minister to Turkey Oscar Strauss opened the meeting. Simon Wolf of Washington, D. C., read a biographical sketch of the late Commodore Isaiah P. Levy, in which he maintained that the commodore was dismissed from the United States Navy solely on account of his race and religion.  
Max J. Kohler read a paper on "Phases in the History of Religious Liberty in America. With Special Reference to the Jews." Mr. Kohler's claim that the establishment of religious liberty was largely due to the efforts of the Jews was met with heated discussion. It was alleged that President Madison recalled a consular agent from Morocco for the sole reason that he was a Jew.  
Assemblyman Taylor Phillips defended President Madison, and so also did Mr. Strauss.  
Julius Sachs of Philadelphia read a paper on "Jacob Philadelphia, Mystic and Physicist."  
Among those present were Prof. Charles Gottlieb of Columbia University, Simon Rosendale of Albany, Dr. Cyrus Adler of the Hebrew Union College, New York, Dr. Herbert Friedland of Baltimore, Dr. Nathaniel Levin of Charleston, S. C., and others. Mr. Kohler and Rev. H. L. Mendez of New York city.

**SAGASTA'S POLICY DEFENDED.**  
**Friends of Present Government Reply to Adverse Criticisms.**  
MADRID, December 29.—In regard to criticisms of the government's inaction, it is pointed out in ministerial circles that the Spanish cabinet has invariably protested against "the attempts of the United States to intervene in Cuba," that President McKinley's message, "however incorrect, did not adopt the comminatory tone of President Cleveland's," that the weakness of Senator Canovas in yielding to the demands of the United States in the Comptroller Alliance and Mora affairs increased the difficulties of Senator Sagasta in combating similar demands, and that, anyhow, as returned to the policy of Senator Sagasta, who, it is alleged, sent 20,000 troops to Cuba and expended two millions without result, is impossible.

**FRESH OUTBREAK OF CHOLERA.**  
**Inhabitants of Mandavie, India, Disturb Fly From Plague.**  
BOMBAY, December 29.—There has been a fresh outbreak of cholera, especially in the Mandavie district, where the inhabitants are seeking safety in flight.  
There were fifty-four new cases of cholera and thirty-seven deaths from that disease today. The total cholera returns from Bombay up to date are 14,257 cases and 11,882 deaths.

**IMPORTANT NEGOTIATIONS**

**Reciprocity With British Colonies and Canada.**  
**The British Ambassador Again Able to Give Attention to State Affairs.**  
**Lord Salisbury's Action.**

Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British ambassador, has about recovered from a long and painful attack of rheumatism, which has kept him in bed for a good part of the last three months. His ability to resume his duties is those given him led to reports that the government was inclined to stop pelagic sealing, and were for the purpose of renewing reciprocity negotiations. It is said, however, that the recent calls have no significance of this character, as Sir Julian did not know of Lord Salisbury's decision at the time he visited the State Department, the embassy not having received word of the answer up to the present time. As to the reciprocity negotiations, the government has progressed steadily through Mr. Adam, first secretary of the embassy, and Sir Julian will not be able to give the matter personal attention.  
**Seeking Reciprocity.**  
The main desire of the British West Indian colonies is to secure reciprocity reductions on sugar, which constitutes their chief product. The United States is the main market for this sugar, and the colonies are very desirous of getting the 20 per cent reduction of duty contemplated by the Dingley law. What will be given in exchange for the sugar is not yet decided, as no schedules have been prepared thus far. At the outset the purpose of the negotiations was confined to the British West Indies, but the purpose has been broadened to include Canada among the colonies receiving the advantages of reciprocity. How far this can be carried in view of the Canadian tariff sea negotiations, is not clear, but it is probable that the British government will prefer to have the negotiations embrace all the colonies including Canada, instead of repeating the action when the last reciprocity treaties were framed of confining them to the West Indian possessions.

**Relations With Canada.**  
In this connection it may be stated that Mr. Kester, the American plenipotentiary Commissioner of the United States, charged with conduct of the negotiation of reciprocity arrangements and treaties under the tariff act, has not undertaken to consider the subject of reciprocity with Canada. This abstention on the part of Mr. Kester is attributable to the fact that the subject is not a simple one, as described in the tariff act, but has become so involved with the seal question and other issues as to become practically inextricable from them, and the entire subject of Canadian relations appears to remain in the control of ex-Secretary Foster.

**A New Arbitration Treaty.**  
It had been expected that the recovery of Sir Julian would permit active steps on the British-American treaty of arbitration. There is no prospect, however, that anything will be done on that subject, and up to this time no negotiations have been opened between the ambassador and the State Department. Both governments have signified a favorable attitude toward reciprocity negotiations, but the British government will take no step whatever until a definite assurance is at hand that such treaty as may be negotiated will become effective. The British government has been reported by the press to have been forewarned with certainty by the answer of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the Canadian premier, declining to stop pelagic sealing.  
The action of Lord Salisbury merely adds to the imperial and official sanction to this declining of the Canadian authorities. Being official and final, it arouses much comment in diplomatic circles as to its effect on the Russo-Japanese negotiations, for the stoppage of pelagic sealing, as understood that at the instance of Japan this treaty was conditioned on the consent of the United States to a similar measure to stop pelagic sealing, in which case the present declaration of Great Britain would apparently put an end to the Russo-Japanese negotiations. The declaration of the British government to this effect has been made.

**Prominent Business Man of Washington Succumbs to Diabetes.**  
Colonel William H. Lowdermilk died today at 12:30 o'clock at his residence, 1218 New Hampshire avenue. His death was not unexpected, as it has been thought for several weeks past that he was in a dying condition. The immediate cause of his death was diabetes. The remains will be taken to Cumberland, Md., tomorrow afternoon, where the funeral services will be held and the interment will be made.  
Colonel Lowdermilk was born at Cumberland, Md., the 7th day of January, 1839. At the age of eleven years he went to Louisville, Ky., where he acquired a collegiate education, and afterward learned the art of printing.  
At the outbreak of the war of the rebellion he enlisted in a Kentucky regiment, and later became an officer on Gen. W. B. Hazen's staff. He was captured at the battle of Gettysburg and held a prisoner of war in Libby prison for eight months, when he was exchanged, and then distinguished himself in the battles of Shiloh, Stone River, Chickamauga, etc.

**CRUISE ON THE MOHICAN.**  
**The Old Warship to Be Used by Naval Apprentices.**  
The old warship Mohican, which has been thoroughly overhauled, and is now at the Mare Island navy yard, has been turned over to the training service and will be put in commission there about the 10th proximo, under command of Commander Book, lately the captain of the Marion. Most of the officers of the latter ship will be transferred to the Mohican. This ship is to recruit a large number of apprentice boys, and it is in contemplation to start with about the middle of January, on a cruise around the world. According to plan some time will be spent among the South Sea Islands, where the American navy has not been represented by any expedition for many years. It is a very important commercial interest of our country that portion of the globe. The department hopes to secure a crew of 150 boys for the Mohican, and to recruit on the Pacific coast for this service.

**Secretary Alger Much Better.**  
Secretary Alger was much better this morning. He suffered from a depressing fever yesterday, but this entirely disappeared during the night, and this morning he was able to arise from his bed and transact some business in his house.  
**NEW YEAR RECEPTIONS.**  
Lists of Those Receiving or Not Receiving to Be Published Friday.  
The Star will publish Friday a list of those receiving or not receiving New Year day. Persons desiring to announce that they will or will not receive can do so without any charge by sending notices to The Star any time prior to 9 o'clock Friday morning. The notices should contain only the announcement that there will or will not be a reception and the names and addresses. Every notice must be properly authenticated to insure publication.

**AT THE WHITE HOUSE**

**Discussing the New Interstate Commerce Commissioner.**  
**NOMINATION OF CHARLES PAGE BRYAN**  
**The President to Attend an Encampment of Veterans.**

**HOWGATE'S PARDON ASKED**  
Senator Mason of Illinois was with the President a good while today discussing the nomination of an interstate commerce commissioner to succeed Col. Morrison. Mr. Mason was again pressing the claims of Senator Littel of Illinois. The President has said that he will advise and will take action next week.  
The President will send the nomination of Charles Page Bryan to the Senate when Congress reassembles next week. He will not hold it any longer, as he is satisfied that there is no good reason for doing so. Following his custom in similar cases, the President withheld the nomination of Bryan on learning that there was opposition. He desired to seek the reasons for the opposition, and as those given him have not been satisfactory he will not delay the matter any longer. The Illinois senators say that they believe Mr. Bryan will be confirmed without trouble.

**The Librarian Mission.**  
Representative Evans of Kentucky today received a telegram from Louisville constituents asking him to try to secure the mission to Liberia for Albert S. White, a prominent colored lawyer of that city and graduate of Howard University. Mr. Evans saw the President and mentioned his mission. The President informed him that the man for the place has been selected. The selection was exclusively among the colored people, and Mr. Smith of North Carolina was the one selected.  
Senator Deboe was also at the White House with Representative J. H. Wilson. The latter candidate for district attorney of Kentucky. Mr. Hill is said to be the candidate of Senator Deboe.  
W. A. Gaines, the Kentucky colored leader, a prominent candidate for register of the State, was also at the city, and visited the White House. Mr. Gaines is said to be looking for something to do.

**Commissioner Forman of the Internal Revenue Bureau and Mr. Scott, the West Virginia man who is to succeed him, were among the President's visitors. Mr. Forman wanted to say good-bye to the President and Mr. Scott desired to pay his respects. Mr. Scott will be sworn in as commissioner of the office next Monday. Mr. Forman will return to East St. Louis, Ill., and resume the practice of law. He left a lucrative practice in that city at the request of President Cleveland.**

**Asking for Howgate's Pardon.**  
Senator Burrows presented to the President today a petition signed by the Michigan delegation in Congress asking the pardon of Capt. Howgate, convicted of embezzlement and given a long sentence.  
Ex-Senator Warner Miller, William Brewster, and Charles Moore, Benjamin Aldrich and ex-Mayor Schenck formed a delegation which saw the President today and invited him to attend the banquet of the National Association of Manufacturers in New York on the 27th of January. The delegation believes that the President will return over to New York to be present if his health permits, and pressed at the time.  
Senators Davis and Nelson of Minnesota had a few minutes with the President on the distribution of places to Minnesota residents.

**The President Accepts an Invitation.**  
Gen. H. L. Street, commander-in-chief of the Union Veteran Union, secretary of Representative G. W. Prince of Illinois and ex-Representative Baker of New York, had an interview with the President today, which resulted in a promise that the President would visit the national encampment of the U. V. U. which will be held at Rock Island, Ill., on the 14th of January. The invitation to the President came from the departments of Illinois and Iowa, and that the occasion would not only be a grand since of veterans of the war, but of soldiers generally from those states and from Nebraska, Dakota, Kansas, Minnesota and Ohio.

**Anti-Pelagic Sealing Bill Signed.**  
After a conference with ex-Secretary Foster this morning the President signed the anti-pelagic sealing bill passed by Congress just before adjourning. The bill prohibits the killing of fur seals in the waters of the North Pacific ocean by American citizens. It also prohibits the furnishing of supplies by American citizens to vessels employed in the seal business. The act prohibits the importation of fur seal skins taken in the waters of the North Pacific. The act does not interfere with the killing of fur seals upon the British Islands.

**Duties on Frozen Herring.**  
Assistant Secretary Howell gave a hearing today to a Boston delegation interested in the question of duties on frozen herring. The delegation headed by the delegation, W. D. Schier headed the delegation. The information is that the customs officials of Gloucester admit the herring free of duty on the ground that they are products of American fisheries. The Boston officials insist that the herring are not products of American fisheries. The delegation desires that the question be settled that there may be uniform action.

**Capt. Martens Suspended.**  
NEW YORK, December 29.—At the police board meeting today President Moss offered a resolution providing for the dismissal of Captain Martens of the East 35th street station, on charges of failing to suppress police shops in his precinct. A tie vote resulted, Commissioners Parker and H. H. Barker voting in the affirmative. A resolution suspending the captain for thirty days without pay was then carried.  
**Cold Wave Visits New York.**  
SARATOGA, N. Y., December 29.—The thermometer today dropped to 9 degrees below zero at North Creek, 10 degrees below at Saratoga, 12 degrees below at Rouse's Point and 15 degrees below at Blue Mountain Lake.

**Pack Train Reaches Vancouver.**  
VANCOUVER BARRACKS, Wash., December 29.—Eleven packmen, sixty mules in charge of Lieutenant Ray, Fort Robinson, have arrived from Chicago. The party will proceed to Dyea on the next steamer for the purpose of assisting Major H. H. Barker in his route for the government relief expedition.  
**Miss Gonne Sails for Home.**  
NEW YORK, December 29.—Miss Maud Gonne, the "Irish Girl of Arc," sailed for Liverpool on the White Star liner Majestic today. J. Pierpont Morgan and Edward Blake, M. P., were also passengers.  
**Lord Bessford to Stand for York.**  
LONDON, December 29.—Rear Admiral Lord Charles Bessford has accepted the invitation of the unionists of York to contest that seat in parliament, vacant by the death of Sir Frank Lockwood, Q. C.  
**M. Carvalho Dead.**  
PARIS, December 29.—M. Carvalho, director of the Opera Comique, is dead.

**BURIED IN THE RUINS**

**Wall Falls in With Fatal Results in East Washington.**  
**One Man Killed and Others Badly Hurt—Engines and Police Force Called Out.**

This afternoon at half-past 2 the front wall of the house 303 B street southeast, which was being remodeled, fell in, carrying with it a number of men who were working on the wall. A number of the workmen were badly shaken up, and five of the bricklayers were buried in the ruins. The neighboring engines and the entire reserve of the fifth precinct were immediately called out, and in a very short time the injured workmen were removed from the debris. The man who received the most severe injury was C. C. Hessler, white, forty-five years old, who lives at 326 1/2 street northeast.  
He was taken to Providence Hospital, but died a few minutes after he reached that place. His neck was broken. The others injured were Thomas Carroll, thirty-five years of age, 121 H street northeast, hurt about the head and body. He was also taken to Providence Hospital.

John Kirby, white, of 702 10th street northeast, hurt about the leg and shoulder. He was taken to the hospital. Gus Williams, colored, fifty years old, living at 9 Snow alley, injured internally, was taken to Providence Hospital. J. F. Jones, another workman, was also severely injured.  
The building where the accident occurred was the property of a Mr. Egloff, and was in course of alteration. Hessler, who was killed, was working at a fireplace under the wall. He leaves a wife and seven children.

**GOV. SHEPHERD'S CONDITION.**  
**Friends Discredit Story of His Serious Illness.**  
A dispatch received last night from San Antonio, Texas, in New York, which stated that Mr. Alexander R. Shepherd had suffered a stroke of apoplexy and that his condition was serious, caused consternation among Gov. Shepherd's friends in this city today. Friends and relatives both in this city and New York, however, were satisfied that the story was not founded on fact. Those most intimately connected with Gov. Shepherd have received up to a late hour this afternoon no intimation of the governor's illness.  
The following dispatch from Mr. L. H. Stevens, in New York, was received by The Star this afternoon:  
"I place no confidence whatever in dispatch from San Antonio regarding Governor Shepherd. I would certainly have been advised, I received telegram from the governor Christmas day. All then in perfect health."  
L. H. STEVENS.

**PRINTING POSTAGE STAMPS.**  
**Bids Will Shortly Be Invited by the Department.**  
Bids will shortly be invited by the Post Office Department for furnishing the United States with postage stamps. At the present time the work of engraving and printing the stamps for the government, under an arrangement made four years ago between the Postmaster General and the Secretary of the Treasury. The bureau of engraving agreed to print the ordinary stamps at 5 cents per thousand, the newspaper and periodical stamps at 11 cents per thousand, the postage due stamps at 6.50 cents per thousand and the special delivery at 11.4 cents per thousand. The work has been entirely satisfactory to the department. But the law provides for the regular advertising for bids to do this work.  
No change is anticipated in the colors or sizes of the stamps, although approximately 10 per cent more stamps will be required this year than when the contract was made four years ago. At that time the government issued the following number of stamps during the year: ordinary stamps for use of the public, 2,750,250,000; newspaper and periodical stamps, 4,171,001; postage due stamps, 18,101,900, and special delivery stamps, 3,250,000.  
The new bids will be invited during the early part of January.

Should an outside contractor obtain the contract, with the exception of the employment of a large force of people who are now engaged at the bureau of engraving and printing making the stamps, the work would be done by the government. The new bids will get the work, as Uncle Sam has saved a considerable amount by doing the work himself.

**Secretary Long's Recommendation.**  
Secretary of the Navy Long has recommended to Congress legislation amending the law as to pensioners admitted to the naval home in Philadelphia so as to hereafter restore to the naval pension fund all pensions deducted on account of residence in the naval home, and to restore to the naval pension fund all pensions deducted because of the admission of a beneficiary to a naval hospital.

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**FINANCE AND TRADE**

**Only Bull Strength Came From Shorts Covering.**  
**GENERAL MARKET REPORTS**  
**Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.**

NEW YORK, December 29.—Opening prices this morning were generally steady around last night's closing level. The market to hold, as the result of considerable profit taking in the specialties. Sentiment and general conditions are opposed to any material decline, but the dullness is an inducement to frequent changes in position.  
Consolidated Gas, Manhattan, Metropolitan Street Railway and Sugar were the features of the day's business. With the exception of the day after the activity was not profitable. Interviews and prophecies were used in justification of the advance in Manhattan, but after a stubborn resistance the stock declined 1 1/2 per cent. Earnings are said to exceed the necessities of the present dividend rate by a trifle less than 1 per cent, and for this reason investors are invited to buy.

Politics were used less than a week ago for the purpose of encouraging speculation, and were not a factor. When manipulation turns from speculation to investment the subject of it must be regarded as dangerous.  
The surface road was rather weak all morning from a general lack of support and a growing conviction that recent prices were too high.  
The buying of sugar was described as good, but the covering of short contracts had undoubtedly considerable to do with it. The market was not a party to the loan crowd there was a good demand for the more active issues this morning, and the traders are not likely to be hurried to sell for a time gave an appearance of strength to the market.

The net result of the day's trading was a more clear demonstration of the fact that the large interests are holding aloof and the traders are not likely to be hurried to sell for a time gave an appearance of strength to the market.  
The cessation of buying by the short interest resulted in demonstrating an absence of demand for the specialties, and a character. The discovery very naturally invited new selling, the market again receding from its previous position. Rumors that the wheat corner had broken were freely circulated during the afternoon, and this intelligence served as an excuse rather than a reason for the decline. The market is likely to assume the responsibility of new operations over the coming holiday.  
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**FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.**  
The following are the opening, the highest and the lowest and the closing prices of the principal stocks and commodities reported by Corson & Macartney, members New York stock exchange, Correspondents, Messrs. Moore & Schley, No. 80 Broadway.

Stocks	High	Low	Close
American Spirits, 100 lbs.	17 1/2	17 1/4	17 1/2
American Spirits, 50 lbs.	17 1/2	17 1/4	17 1/2
American Sugar, 100 lbs.	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2
American Sugar, 50 lbs.	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2
American Tobacco, 100 lbs.	90 1/2	90 1/4	90 1/2
American Tobacco, 50 lbs.	90 1/2	90 1/4	90 1/2
American Cotton Oil, 100 lbs.	12 1/2	12 1/4	12 1/2
American Cotton Oil, 50 lbs.	12 1/2	12 1/4	12 1/2
Baltimore & Ohio, 100 lbs.	4 1/2	4 1/4	4 1/2
Baltimore & Ohio, 50 lbs.	4 1/2	4 1/4	4 1/2
Bay State Gas, 100 lbs.	4 1/2	4 1/4	4 1/2
Bay State Gas, 50 lbs.	4 1/2	4 1/4	4 1/2
Canada Pacific, 100 lbs.	11 1/2	11 1/4	11 1/2
Canada Pacific, 50 lbs.	11 1/2	11 1/4	11 1/2
Chesapeake & Ohio, 100 lbs.	22 1/2	22 1/4	22 1/2
Chesapeake & Ohio, 50 lbs.	22 1/2	22 1/4	22 1/2
Chicago, B. & Q., 100 lbs.	99 1/2	99 1/4	99 1/2
Chicago, B. & Q., 50 lbs.	99 1/2	99 1/4	99 1/2
Chicago Northwestern, 100 lbs.	12 1/2	12 1/4	12 1/2
Chicago Northwestern, 50 lbs.	12 1/2	12 1/4	12 1/2
C. M. & St. Paul, 100 lbs.	95 1/2	95 1/4	95 1/2
C. M. & St. Paul, 50 lbs.	95 1/2	95 1/4	95 1/2
Consolidated Gas, 100 lbs.	18 1/2	18 1/4	18 1/2
Consolidated Gas, 50 lbs.	18 1/2	18 1/4	18 1/2
Del. & W. Md., 100 lbs.	11 1/2	11 1/4	11 1/2
Del. & W. Md., 50 lbs.	11 1/2	11 1/4	11 1/2
Illinois Central, 100 lbs.	11 1/2	11 1/4	11 1/2
Illinois Central, 50 lbs.	11 1/2	11 1/4	11 1/2
Lake Shore, 100 lbs.	11 1/2	11 1/4	11 1/2
Lake Shore, 50 lbs.	11 1/2	11 1/4	11 1/2
Manhattan Elevated, 100 lbs.	11 1/2	11 1/4	11 1/2
Manhattan Elevated, 50 lbs.	11 1/2	11 1/4	11 1/2
Missouri Pacific, 100 lbs.	11 1/2	11 1/4	11 1/2
Missouri Pacific, 50 lbs.	11 1/2	11 1/4	11 1/2
National Lead Co., 100 lbs.	88 1/2	88 1/4	88 1/2
National Lead Co., 50 lbs.	88 1/2	88 1/4	88 1/2
New Jersey Central, 100 lbs.	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2
New Jersey Central, 50 lbs.	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/2
Norfolk & Western, 100 lbs.	15 1/2	15 1/4	15 1/2
Norfolk & Western, 50 lbs.	15 1/2	15 1/4	15 1/2
Phila. & Reading, 100 lbs.	22 1/2	22 1/4	22 1/2
Phila. & Reading, 50 lbs.	22 1/2	22 1/4	22 1/2
Pittsburgh & C. O., 100 lbs.	17 1/2	17 1/4	17 1/2
Pittsburgh & C. O., 50 lbs.	17 1/2	17 1/4	17 1/2
Phila. & Pa. Co., 100 lbs.	35 1/2	35 1/4	35 1/2
Phila. & Pa. Co., 50 lbs.	35 1/2	35 1/4	35 1/2
Texas Pacific, 100 lbs.	11 1/2	11 1/4	11 1/2
Texas Pacific, 50 lbs.	11 1/2	11 1/4	11 1/